the State/UT, opening of fair price shops and also to ensure supplies reach the fair price shops, regularly and on time. Central Government has not set any separate target for opening of fair price shops (FPS) by the States during 1995-96. State Governments/UT Administrations had set themselves a target of opening 10580 additional FPSs in the areas covered under the RPDS. Against this target as per reports received from States/UTs till 15th November, 1995, a total number of 15232 FPSs have been opened in the RPDS areas. The allocations of various items are made keeping in view the production, availability in central pool, open market availability, seasonal factors and inter-se demands from States/UTs. The request by States/UTs for additional allocation are considered from time to time keeping in view the above factors. The Central Government also provides financial assistance to States/UTs for construction of godowns and purchase of vans in RPDS areas for improving the infrastructure and delivery system to effectively reach PDS items to consumer. The implementation of PDS/RPDS is reviewed from time to time with States/UTs by Central Government in various fora to ensure streamlining and improvement in the system which is a continual process.

Formation of a Working Group

729. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the difficulties in the way for Government to form a working group to study the long term impact of various legislations on beedi and cigar workers of Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that various Ministers have authority to form a working group to study and review various policies and subjects; and

(c) if so, reasons for delay in forming a working group on this subject by t Minister of Labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOU (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) (c) A tripartite Central Adviso Committee has been constituted to adv the Central Government on all matt relating to the administration of t Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 19 At the State level, State Level Adviso Committees have also been set up. The is no proposal under consideration constitute a working group for the bee and cigar workers of Bihar.

Awareness regarding Consun Protection

730. SHRI KRISHAN LA SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIV SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAI AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that awaren of consumer protection has not reach many departments of various St Governments;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ma police departments in the States are n aware of consumer protection with t result that many decisions of t consumer courts have not be implemented; and

(c) if so, whether government propo to intensify its campaign of spreadi awareness about consumer protection; so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TH MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIE CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBL DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SH VENOD SHARMA): (a) and (b) All t